

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 CU-04 NIC-01 OMB-01 SAJ-01

DRC-01 /133 W

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R 140735Z DEC 73

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8998

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEISLTIYR

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 12577

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PINT, CH

SUBJ: REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEES SANCTIFIED

SUMMARY. THE INSTITUTION OF REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEES HAS BEEN RAISED TO THE IDEOLOGICAL SANCTITY OF "NEWLY-EMERGED THINGS" OF THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION. THIS VERY POSSIBLY REFLECTS AN NPC-RELATED DECISION ON THE FUTURE OF THE INSTITUTION. END SUMMARY.

1. THE INSTITUTION OF REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEES, A SUBJECT HIGH ON THE AGENDA FOR THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS, HAS BEEN GIVEN A NEW IMAGE--AS ONE OF THE "NEWLY-EMERGED THINGS" OF THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION, I.E. SOMETHING TO BE DEFENDED AND NOT ATTACKED. THE CHANGE IN IMAGE REFLECTS RECENT DISCUSSION AND VERY POSSIBLY A DECISION ABOUT THE FUTURE OF REVOLUTION COMMITTEES. MORE IMMEDIATELY CLEAR, THE RAISING OF THE INSTITUTION TO SUCH A LEVEL
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OF SANCTITY PUTS AN EFFECTIVE CURB ON FURTHER DIFFERENCES OF

OPINION OVER THE MATTER.

2. AN NCNA DOMESTIC SERVICE ITEM DECEMBER 7 FOR THE FIRST TIME TO OUR KNOWLEDGE LABELED THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE "A NEW THING THAT EMERGED" FOR THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION (NCNA WAS CITING THE VIEW OF A COMMUNE IN HOPEI). SZECHWAN RADIO HAS NOW SAID THE SAME (DECEMBER 12). WE WOULD JUDGE THAT THE NEW IMAGE IS CUED FROM A CENTRAL DOCUMENT OR OTHER HIGH LEVEL PRONOUNCEMENT, AND THAT THIS GUIDANCE IS OF VERY RECENT ORIGIN.

3. INDICATIONS OVER THE PAST YEAR AND MORE, PARTICULARLY WELL DISPLAYED IN INTELLIGENCE REPORTS, HAD POINTED AT MOVES TOWARD DOING AWAY WITH REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEES, AT LEAST AT LOWER LEVELS, POSSIBLY IN FAVOR OF A RETURN TO THE PCI-CULTURAL REVOLUTION GOVERNMENTAL FORM OF PEOPLE'S COUNCILS. HOWEVER, IT WAS MADE CLEAR AT THE PARTY CONGRESS IN AUGUST THAT THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE WAS TO BE RETAINED IN SOME FORM AT SOME LEVEL. PREMIER CHOU INDICATED THIS IN CALLING FOR THEIR ROLE TO BE BROUGHT INTO FULL PLAY. HOWEVER, HE APPEARED TO LUMP REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEES WITH MASS ORGANIZATIONS, AND HE DID NOT INCLUDE THEM AMONG THE "NEWLY EMERGING THINGS OF SOCIALISM" WHEN HE TICKED OFF THE STANDARD FRUITS OF THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION, E.G. MAY 7 SCHOOLS, EDUCATIONAL REFORM, ETC.

4. WANG HUNG-WEN ALSO MENTIONED THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE IN HIS CONGRESS REPORT, AND HE WENT ON TO CITE WHAT IS APPARENTLY A MAJOR CONCERN WITH THE FUTURE OF THE INSTITUTION. THE PARTY'S LEADERSHIP, HE SAID, "MUST NOT BE REPLACED BY A 'JOINT CONFERENCE' OF SEVERAL SECTORS." SUGGESTING THAT THERE WAS SIGNIFICANT APPREHENSION ABOUT A DIVISIVE COMPETITION FOR AUTHORITY BETWEEN THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE AND THE PARTY. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN IF THIS SANCTIONING OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE NOW MEANS THAT A WORKABLE COMPROMISE EMBRACING THAT CONCERN HAS BEEN REACHED AND WHAT IT AMOUNTS TO EFFECTIVELY.

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